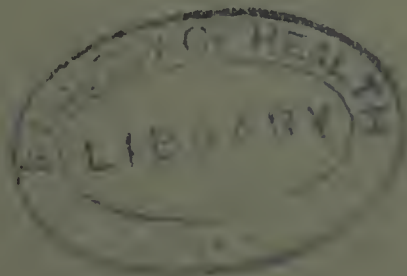


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**DRONFIELD
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

**HEALTH OF
DRONFIELD**

for

1953

**By JOHN REID GRAHAM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health**

DRONFIELD
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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By **JOHN REID GRAHAM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.**
Medical Officer of Health

ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 1953.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

For the second year in succession I am pleased to be able to report that the figures in the vital statistics for 1953 are exceptionally good, but I would again remind you that the numbers under review are so small that expressed in terms of (for example) infant deaths per 1,000 live births, one actual death can double the figure.

The figure is 9.80 per 1,000 live births, in numbers this represents one infant death. As will be seen in the body of the report the average number for the country is 26 per 1,000 ; this low figure is most gratifying and is an indication that the health position in the urban area is very satisfactory.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN R. GRAHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Population (Registrar General's figures) 7,518

BIRTH RATE.

13.56 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

14.23 per 1,000 (Live and Still) births.

DEATH RATE.

9.17 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

From Sepsis	....	....	....	....	Nil
From other causes	....	....	....	....	Nil

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	....	....	9.80
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	....	....	10.10
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	....	....	Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	....	....	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	....	....	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	....	....	1

BIRTHS IN DRONFIELD URBAN DISTRICT.

Live Births—			
Males :	Total	51—Legitimate	.... 50
		Illegitimate	.... 1
Females :	Total	51—Legitimate	.... 49
		Illegitimate	.... 2
Still Births—			
Males :	Total	2—Legitimate	.... 2
		Illegitimate	..... Nil
Females :	Total	3—Legitimate	.... 3
		Illegitimate	.... Nil

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

Males :	Total	1—Legitimate ....	....	1
		Illegitimate	....	Nil
Females :	Total	Nil—Legitimate ....	....	Nil
		Illegitimate	....	Nil

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER FOUR WEEKS OF AGE.

Males :	Total	Nil—Legitimate ..	....	Nil
		Illegitimate	....	Nil
Females :	Total	Nil—Legitimate ....	....	Nil
		Illegitimate	....	Nil

SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

There is still full employment in the area and all the local industries are working full time.

The Dronfield Pioneer Health and Housing Society has completed some 28 houses, and the development is taking shape and promises well.

HOUSING.

The main activities of the Council in the years since the war have been directed to providing houses for families in shared accommodation ; but a few cases of individual unfit properties have been dealt with.

New legislation before Parliament indicates that the Government mean to allow local authorities to renew activities in clearing away areas containing unfit houses : incidentally the popular name is "slum clearance" but in Dronfield to term many of the areas to be cleared "slums" would give a wrong impression. Certainly quite a number of houses are definitely unfit for human habitation but to call all such aggregations of houses in the urban area "slums," gives quite a wrong conception of the houses and their occupants.

The majority of houses which will come into the unfit category are very old, but in some cases neglect over a period of years has resulted in such deterioration that repairs would be much too costly in comparison with the value of the property.

SANITARY CONDITIONS IN THE AREA.

While no work has been commenced in sewage disposal during the year, the prospect of clearing up the unsatisfactory conditions in the Hill Top area seems to be a little better and it is hoped that work on the scheme will be started in 1954.

Following on this scheme, it is hoped that permission will be obtained from the Ministry of Health and Housing for major alterations to be carried out at the sewage works.

The surface water drainage from the housing development of the Sheffield Corporation on the Urban District's border

is causing some concern to the Council. The matter has been raised by your officials and it is to be hoped that the negotiations which are proceeding will end in a manner which will give satisfaction to the Council.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The supplies have been ample and in the main of good quality. There have been occasional complaints but these have been much less frequent than in previous years.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE AMENDMENT ACT, 1951.

One case was investigated with a view to proceedings under the 1948 Act, but it was felt that in this instance no action could properly be taken.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

There was an increase in the incidence of scarlet fever and measles compared with the previous year.

103 cases of measles were notified and 29 of scarlet fever, but there were no fatal cases and as is the present trend the infections were of a mild type.

Disease	Total Number Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	29	19	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Enteric Fever	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infection	0	0	0
Erysipelas	1	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0	0
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	0	0	0
„ (Non-paralytic)	0	0	0
Pneumonia	8	3	6
Measles	108	2	0
Whooping Cough	3	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS RETURN FOR 1953.

Age. Periods in years.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 & over	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 & over	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15 & over	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25 & over	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
35 & over	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
45 & over	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55 & over	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 & over	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1
	5	1	1	2	0	0	0	1
Cases included above	Not Primary.				Not Notified.			
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATIONS.

Number of children who received Primary Immunisations in the Authority's area during the year 1953 :—

Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5—9 (inclusive)	10—14	Total
2	40	3	1	1	—	—	47

BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE-RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1953.

Provisional Figures Based on Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	160 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	160 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000— 50,000 at 1951 Census)	London Adminis- trative County	Dronfield Urban District Council
Rates per 1,000 Home Population.					
Births :—					
Live births	15.5	17.0	15.7	17.5	13.5
Still births	{ 0.35	0.43	0.34	0.38	0.66
	{ 22.4(a)	24.8(a)	21.4(a)	21.0(a)	46.7(a)
Deaths :—					
All Causes	11.4	12.2	11.3	12.5	9.1
Typhoid and para- typhoid	0.00	0.00	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.20	0.24	0.19	0.24	0.13
Influenza	0.16	0.15	0.17	0.15	0.26
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
Acute poliomyelitis (including polioen- cephalitis)	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia	0.55	0.59	0.52	0.64	0.79
Notifications (Corrected) :—					
Typhoid fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Meningococcal infection	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.00
Scarlet fever	1.39	1.50	1.44	1.02	3.85
Whooping Cough	3.58	3.72	3.38	3.30	0.39
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Erysipelas	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.12	0.13
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
Measles	12.36	11.27	12.32	8.09	14.36
Pneumonia	0.84	0.92	0.76	0.73	1.06
Acute poliomyelitis (including polioen- cephalitis) :					
Paralytic	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.00
Non-paralytic	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.00
Food Poisoning	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.38	0.00
Puerperal Pyrexia	18.23(a)	24.33(a)	12.46(a)	28.61(a)	0.00
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.					
Deaths :—					
All causes under 1 year of age	26.8(b)	30.8	24.3	24.8	9.8
Enteritis and diarr- hoea under 2 years of age	1.1	1.3	0.9	1.1	9.8

Maternal Mortality in England and Wales.

Intermediate List No. and cause.		Number of deaths	Rates per 1000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rates per million women aged 15—44
A.115	Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	68	0.10	—
A.116	Abortion with toxæmia	7	0.01	1
	Other toxæmias of pregnancy and the puerperium	166	0.24	—
A.117	Haemorrhage of preg- nancy and childbirth	90	0.13	—
A.118	Abortion without men- tion of sepsis or tox- æmia	30	0.04	3
A.119	Abortion, with sepsis	39	0.06	4
A.120	Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	125	0.18	—

-
- (a) Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.
 (b) Per 1,000 related Live Births.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE DRONFIELD URBAN DISTRICT DURING 1953.

	Male	Female
All causes	33	36
Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	0
Tuberculosis, other	0	1
Syphilitic disease	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0
Meningococcal infections	0	0
Acute poliomyelitis	0	0
Measles	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	0
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	0
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	2	2
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1
Diabetes	1	0
Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	3
Coronary disease, angina	3	3
Hypertension with heart disease	0	2
Other heart disease	6	12
Other circulatory disease	0	1
Influenza	1	1
Pneumonia	3	3
Bronchitis	4	0
Other diseases of respiratory system	0	0
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	0
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	0
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0
Congenital malformations	0	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	0	2
Motor vehicle accidents	0	0
All other accidents	0	0
Suicide	0	0
Homicide and operations of war	0	0

TABLE.
TREATMENT CENTRE, POOLSBROOK.

Number of cases, 110.

	Adults.	5-15	Under 5	Total
SCABIES.				
Bolsover U.D.C.	1	1	1	3
Chesterfield Borough	7	5	2	14
Chesterfield R.D.C.	2	3	0	5
Clay Cross U.D.C.	0	0	0	0
Clowne R.D.C.	0	0	0	0
Dronfield U.D.C.	0	0	0	0
Staveley U.D.C.	4	2	0	6
	14	11	3	28
HEAD LICE.				
Bolsover U.D.C.	0	1(0)	0	1(0)
Chesterfield Borough	15(7)	7(4)	12(7)	34(18)
Chesterfield R.D.C.	0	25(5)	1(1)	26(6)
Clay Cross U.D.C.	0	1(1)	0	1(1)
Clowne R.D.C.	1(1)	1(1)	3(2)	5(4)
Dronfield U.D.C.	0	0	0	0
Staveley U.D.C.	1(1)	1(1)	1(1)	3(3)
	17(9)	36(12)	17(11)	70(32)
SCABIES WITH VERMINOUS HEADS.				
Bolsover U.D.C.	0	0	0	0
Chesterfield Borough	0	1(0)	1(0)	2(0)
Chesterfield R.D.C.	0	0	0	0
Clay Cross U.D.C.	0	0	0	0
Clowne R.D.C.	0	0	0	0
Dronfield U.D.C.	0	0	0	0
Staveley U.D.C.	0	0	0	0
	0	1(0)	1(0)	2(0)
Diagnosis not confirmed	6			
Miscellaneous	4			
Pediculosis Corporis	2	Chesterfield Borough, adults		
Pediculosis Pubis	0			
	12			

Note.—The numbers in brackets refer to those on whom live lice were found.

DRONFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SANITARY INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT.

For the Year ended 31st December, 1953.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my report on the work of the Health Department for the year 1953.

GENERAL INFORMATION APPERTAINING TO THE URBAN DISTRICT OF DRONFIELD.

Estimated population (Registrar General's Figures)	....	....	....	....	....	7,518
Area	....	....	....	....	....	3,452 acres.
Number of inhabited houses	....	....	....	....	....	2,466

HOUSING.

The building of Council houses slowed down considerably during the year under review. Only four aged persons dwellings being completed. A start was made on twelve houses and four flats in Holmley Lane, Dronfield. Private enterprise builders completed forty three new houses in the year.

Only one dwelling was dealt with under the Individual Unfit Section of the 1936 Housing Act, and the owner was allowed to retain the buildings for use as a store. This in my opinion is a wrong principle, as these old semi-derelict buildings will bring a train of trouble as they deteriorate.

The following table shows how house building has progressed since the end of the war :

		COUNCIL HOUSES	PRIVATE ENTERPRISE HOUSES
1946	....	50	19
1947	....	76	31
1948	....	99	12
1949	....	49	15
1950		6	10
1951	....	24	6
1952	....	40	8
1953	....	4	43
		<hr/> 348	<hr/> 144

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

As a matter of economy it was decided, when the 1953/4 Estimates were being considered, to reduce the refuse collection team by one man and institute an eight day collection instead of a seven day collection. This proved a most disastrous move which led to a complete breakdown in regular collections, and the team had to be brought back to full complement.

The sickness rate throughout the year was very low, a matter of 172 man days being lost in the twelve months, of which 60 days went to one man who, I regret to say, passed away as a result of his illness.

Salvage collection and disposal was carried out with due regard to the fact that household refuse collection and disposal is the essential service.

The following materials sold realised the sum of £1,050 10s. 7d.

			T.	C.	Q.	lbs.
Waste paper	....	....	88	11	0	21
Textiles	....	....	4	12	3	18
Ferrous metals	....	....	59	1	3	0
Non ferrous metals		....		4	1	27
Cullet	....	....	3	3	0	0
Kitchen Waste	....	....	25	11	3	0
Total	....	....	<hr/>181	<hr/> 5	<hr/> 0	<hr/> 10

One item may be of interest. Since the end of the war to the end of 1953, no less than 492 new houses have been built in the Local Authority's area. This together with the large number of conversions carried out will give some idea of the increased work of the department. The tip in Wreakes Lane is now approaching a level where, if we are to extend the tipping area, the field adjoining will have to be used. It is proposed to acquire this field as soon as possible. The field in question will then almost double the present tip life of this site.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Inspection of food preparation premises and food shops in the area has been carried out regularly—no new registrations of food premises were applied for or granted during the year. The following is a list of foodstuffs surrendered and condemned as unfit for human consumption. :—

One pig carcase and offal	Glace cherries—12½ lbs.
Yellow plums—one bottle	Tomatoes—one bottle
Pears—two tins	Oranges—one tin
Cherries—six tins	Damsons—nine tins
Peas—two tins	Stewed Steak—two tins
Fish paste—one tin	Sauces—seven bottles
Pickles—three bottles	Tomato chutney—
Sweet Mango Chutney—	seven bottles
six bottles	Pickled walnuts—
Sardines—seventy-seven tins	six bottles
New Zealand lamb—one tin	Black currants—one tin
Prunes—seven tins	Bilberries—one tin
Soup powder—fourteen tins	Apricots—one tin
Curry powder—six tins	Ground nutmeg—
Lime Juice Cordial—	thirty-two tins
one bottle	Evaporated Milk—one
	one tin
Shoulder of Ham—one tin	.... 13 lbs. 2 ozs.
Luncheon Meat—one tin	..... 4 lbs.
Cooked Ham—one tin	.... 15 lbs.
Dried Pineapple	.... 14 lbs.
Tapioca	.... 26 lbs.

WATER SAMPLES.

Thirty-six water samples were taken from various points in the district and submitted for bacteriological examination. All thirty-six samples were reported as satisfactory.

A number of complaints were received about the water being dirty and also to the effect that tea had been spoilt, the tea in question turning a dirty grey in colour and having an unpleasant taste. These complaints were passed to the North East Derbyshire Joint Water Committee.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

All the Local Authority Works were treated systematically and no large infestations were reported or found in the area. Private premises were cleared in a number of cases.

PETROLEUM (REGULATIONS) ACTS, 1928-1936.

Fifteen licences were granted during the year for the storage of 16,000 gallons of petroleum.

RECORD OF VISITS MADE DURING THE YEAR.

Conversions of privy middens to water closets	....	18
Middens	....	3
Defective water closets	....	21
Choked drains	....	110
Defective drains	....	41
New drains	....	29
Drains Tested	....	32
Cesspools	....	29
Defective dustbins	....	310
General housing defects	....	265
Council house maintenance	....	1,163
Refuse collection and salvage	....	272
Land charge enquiries	....	21
Water samples	....	54
Water sampling	....	57
Factories' sanitary accommodation	....	22
Alleged dirty houses	....	26
Infectious diseases	....	43
Offensive smells	....	23
Petroleum licences	....	20
Food preparation and storage premises	....	82
Ice cream manufacturers and retailers	....	28
Nuisance from poultry etc.	....	7
Housing Act, 1936	....	26
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	....	157
Places of entertainment	....	5
Defective sinks	....	6
Sink waste choked	....	2
Caravans	....	20
Public house sanitation	....	21
Accumulations	....	22
Flooded cellars	....	21
Verminous infestations	....	3
Shops	....	24
Bakehouses	....	8

Insufficient sanitary accommodation	....	....	9
Dangerous buildings....	....	....	3
Interviews with builders, etc.	....	....	112
Miscellaneous	....	....	73
Rating Department	....	....	39
Clerk's Department	....	....	70
Surveyor's Department	....	....	44
Public Urinals	....	....	7
Slaughterhouses	....	....	4
Smoke Abatement	....	....	16
Alterations to existing premises	....	....	19

WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR.

Number of Middens converted to water closets	....	2
Number of Middens converted to pail closets	....	1
Number of Middens dismantled	....	1
New W.C.'s provided	....	6
W.C.'s repaired	....	4
Choked drains cleared	....	27
Premises affected	....	73
Defective drains repaired	....	6
New drains constructed	....	298 ft. 4" drain
Grease traps fitted	....	1
Cesspools repaired	....	1
Ventilation shafts repaired	....	30 ft.
New manholes constructed	....	6
Manholes repaired	....	3
New trap gullies fixed	....	7
New sinks fixed	....	1
Sink waste pipes repaired	....	3
New dustbins supplied	....	130
House roofs repaired	....	9

New eaves spouts fitted	....	....	....	....	202 ft.
Eaves spouts repaired	....	....	....	....	4
Doors repaired	....	....	....	....	8
Wall plaster repaired	....	....	....	....	7
Ceiling plaster repaired	....	....	....	....	2
Fireplaces repaired	....	....	....	....	8
New fireplaces fixed	....	....	....	....	7
Windows repaired...	....	....	....	....	12
Yard pavings repaired	....	....	....	....	4
Burst water pipes repaired	....	....	....	....	1
Accumulations removed	....	....	....	....	2
New rain water pipes fixed	....	....	....	....	24 ft.
Water supply systems repaired...	....	....	....	....	7
Handrails fitted to staircases	....	....	....	....	1
Lavatory basins renewed	....	....	....	....	2
House floors repaired	....	....	....	....	1
New bathrooms provided	....	....	....	....	1
New sewage treatment plants provided	....	....	....	....	1

ERIC M. HOUSECROFT,

Sanitary Inspector.

